

## Today's News - Monday, November 8, 2010

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of Ito's theater in Tokyo.
- Moore has an interesting conversation with Abboud about why Park51 is much more than the "mosque at Ground Zero."
- Curtis would like to see Holl do "a lot more work" on his Glasgow School of Art project: it "remains a still-born diagram without the life-blood and inspiration of a living work" (ouch!).
- NYC has big public and private plans for shoreline improvements with the goal for "the water to become the 'sixth borough.'"
- Barns minces no words about "overblown and out of whack" plans for Hobart's waterfront, beginning with plans to "radically alter" the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery: "In theory, it's a brilliant idea...But one hopes the current plans...never make it out of the architects' office" (ouch! again. pix + flythrough - you decide).
- Meanwhile in Western Australia, conservationists claim plans for four new marine parks would be better called "mining and fishing parks."
- Dimmer takes a dim view of what's going on in Tokyo where some "massive," "questionable," and "infamous" plans for parks "suggest that public space in Japan has become an endangered species."
- Scotland campaigns to "green" stalled development sites "to prevent a catastrophic slide into urban blight as the age of austerity dawns."
- A call for Jakarta authorities "to find more creative approaches for re-greening the city."
- Punjab's Chief Minister urges architects to help protect environment (and the government will help).
- RIBA eyes Liverpool waterfront as possible home for its northern HQ and museum (Manchester had its fingers crossed).
- Rocky roads and unrest among RMJMs ranks, but it claims "the issues the company faces are shared by many architects which have an international footprint."
- Qatar throws its hat in the ring to host the 2022 World Cup, but "there are key challenges in achieving these hopes which cannot be evaded."
- Is Qatar's plan to build 12 stadiums such a hot idea for one of the hottest places on earth? "Can we really afford to keep on building more giant structures that will thereafter be left for dead?"
- Australia believes its World Cup bid hits all "right architectural goals" that will avoid "the white elephant syndrome" (the "most obvious white elephant candidate is cashed-up Qatar").
- While there's much to like at the Lisbon Architecture Triennale, "there appears to be little emphasis on sustainability, green space and integrated renewable technology" + one featured architect is "passionate" about Lisbon: "he values the landscape in which he is called upon to intervene" (and the city is lucky to have him).
- Gendall reports from the International Biennale of Landscape Urbanism in Bat Yam, Israel, and its unusual mandate to participants.
- Menking reports on some of the World Architecture Festival winners: "In what is surely a sign of the times...there seem to be many more strong projects in the 'future' category than completed buildings."
- Dunlop cheers winner of WAF's first Art and Work Award, "one of the largest public-art projects ever built" - "Everglades" at Miami International Airport (it beat out some really big finalists like the city of London and Royal Dutch Telecom).
- Call for entries (and the deadline really looms!): 12th International Garden Festival: create temporary "Secret Gardens" for the Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens in Quebec.

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Toyo Ito & Associates: Za-Koenji Public Theatre, Suginami-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Why Park51 is much more than the 'mosque at Ground Zero': Rowan Moore talks to [the] architect, Michel Abboud, about his controversial project to build a 'Muslim YMCA' near Ground Zero in New York... "It is very important to understand the healing power of architecture." There is an awful lot of healing still to do. -- Soma Architects- Guardian (UK)

Facing up to Mackintosh: Steven Holl's proposed new £50 million Glasgow School of Art redevelopment requires a lot more work. It is not easy to build opposite a masterpiece...the 'developed' scheme...remains a still-born diagram without the life-blood and inspiration of a living work. By William JR Curtis [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

New York's Next Frontier: The Waterfront: The city is investing millions in shoreline improvements that could forever change the view from Manhattan...Vision 2020, that includes more than 500 prospective projects...the goal was for the water to become the "sixth borough"...dozens of large-scale plans by private developers are being matched by equally ambitious city projects. [images]- New York Times

Overblown and out of whack: Let's start with the mother of them all: the recently revealed plans to radically alter the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. In theory, it's a brilliant idea...But one hopes the current plans...never make it out of the architects' office...This town needs a Transforming Hobart strategy that not only exists on paper, but works. We have a long way to go on current evidence. By Greg Barns -- Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp [slide show, flythrough]- The Mercury (Tasmania, Australia)

Conservationists attack marine park plan: Four new marine parks to be created in Western Australia's Kimberley region would be better described as "mining and fishing parks", conservation groups say...mining, oil, gas and fishing can continue in almost the entire [3.5 million hectare] park area.- The Age (Australia)

Op-Ed: Plans for public space need the public's input: The heated debates over the construction of a massive aquarium in Kyoto's Umekoji Park, the plans to level parts of Shimokitazawa in Tokyo for a questionable road project, and the infamous quasi-privatization of Shibuya's Miyashita Park suggest that public space in Japan has become an endangered species. By Christian Dimmer- Japan Times

Campaigners seek to highlight potential of 'greening' stalled development sites: Green space experts are calling for development sites stalled as a result of the economic downturn to be temporarily "greened" to prevent a catastrophic slide into urban blight as the age of austerity dawns. -- Greenspace Scotland- HorticultureWeek (UK)

Fresh green ideas needed: People often complain about scorching heat in Jakarta without realizing that the city has less than half the recommended number of trees it needs to provide shade and create fresh air...the administration should find more creative approaches for re-greening the city. -- Bambang Sulistyantara; Indonesian Landscape Architect Association (IALI)- The Jakarta Post

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif urges architects to help protect environment: ...government will provide all possible co-operation and facilities for the improvement of architecture sector...Asian Congress of Architects will prove a milestone for the promotion of green architecture... - Business Recorder (Pakistan)

Royal Institute for British Architects plans for northern HQ and museum in Liverpool: The bid is currently going through a

"proof of concept" feasibility study and, if successful, new premises could be located on the waterfront near to the Albert Dock...Manchester hoped to attract the new centre – but RIBA believes Liverpool is a better location. - Liverpool Echo (UK)

RMJM rocked by late pay and staff walkouts: ...has been hit by a series of crises at its offices around the world, including mass walk-outs of staff and unrest over late payment of salaries...A spokesman...said the issues the company faces are shared by many architects which have an international footprint. - Scotland on Sunday / The Scotsman (UK)

Keeping pace with evolving stadium designs and cooling innovations in the Middle East: ... currently being positioned on the precipice of potentially making sporting history with Qatar's 2022 World Cup Bid, there are key challenges in achieving these hopes which cannot be evaded...to develop a design which allows cooling...and to resolve a responsible energy source, such as solar power. -- RFA Fenwick Iribarren Architects - AME Info (United Arab Emirates/UAE)

World Cup 2022: Is Qatar Too Hot To Bid? Qatar aims to build 12 stadiums...in one of the hottest places on earth? Will that plan go up in smoke?...Can we really afford to keep on building more giant structures that will thereafter be left for dead? - Green Prophet (Middle East)

Australia's World Cup bid slots the right architectural goals: FIFA is said to be newly wary of the white elephant syndrome, a factor that could assist bids such as Australia's...or England and the US...Of those bidding against Australia the most obvious white elephant candidate is cashed-up Qatar. -- John Barrow/Populous - The Age (Australia)

Lisbon Architecture Triennale, 2010: 'Let's Talk About Houses' explores two main subjects; the increasingly blurred boundaries between art and architecture and the production of new solutions to the question of dwelling...Unfortunately there appears to be little emphasis on sustainability, green space and integrated renewable technology... -- Jose and Manuel Aires Mateus; Peter Cook; João Luís Carrilho da Graça; Miguel Arruda; Tham & Videgård Arkitekter; Helen & Hard Architects; Cláudio Vilarinho [slide show]- Wallpaper\*

João Luís Carrilho da Graça – In praise of the landscape: Architect...is passionate about Lisbon...he values the landscape in which he is called upon to intervene...The cruise ship terminal is an emblematic example of the strong relationship his work always has with its setting. - UP Magazine (TAP Portugal)

International Biennale of Landscape Urbanism: ...program doesn't ask architects and landscape architects for projects to be displayed temporarily. Instead...design site-specific installations for the city of Bat Yam with a big caveat: no one takes them down once the Biennale is over. By John Gendall -- Derman Verbakel Architecture; Maya Barkai; Shiri Chanaani; Noa Biran/Roy Talmon; Ofer Bilik/Jakub Szczesny; Matilde Cassani/Francesco Librizzi; Kerem Halbrecht [images]- Metropolis Magazine

And the World Architecture Festival Winners Are . . . : In what is surely a sign of the times...there seem to be many more strong projects in the "future" category than completed buildings. By William Menking -- AGi Architects; Perkins+Will; Zaha Hadid; Suisman Urban Design; Turenscape; WOHA; Benjamin Garcia Saxe Architect; TOCA; etc. [images, link to images/info]- The Architect's Newspaper

Barbara Neijna's extraordinary 'Everglades' at Miami International Airport wins World Architecture Festival award...one of the largest public-art projects ever built...received the first-ever...Art and Work Award for a project in the built environment, an award of such magnitude that other finalists included the city of London and Royal Dutch Telecom...It's all there, transformed from life to art, to life-giving art... By Beth Dunlop - Miami Herald

Call for entries/proposals: 12th International Garden Festival: "Secret Gardens: Create temporary gardens for the Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens in Quebec to be presented from June 25 - October 2, 2011; deadline: November 12- Fondation des Jardins de Métis

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